SITUATION REPORT

Ontario
Office of the Provincial Security Advisor

File No: SR-0001
Date/Time: 2022-01-28 at 1700 hours
Period Covered: 1700 hours 2022-01-27 to 1700 hours 2022-01-28

ISSUE:
"FREEDOM CONVOY" OPPOSING VACCINATION MANDATES HEADED TO NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR)

Background

- A nationwide campaign has been organized amongst anti-mandate truckers to slow down highway traffic across Canada and to culminate in demonstrations at Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario. The campaign has been organized in response to the federal mandate that took effect January 15, 2022 requiring all commercial truck drivers entering Canada to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

- The noted convoys commenced January 23, 2022, with activity planned to culminate at Parliament Hill, Ottawa on January 29, 2022. Once in Ottawa, some convoy organizers have stated an intent to remain at Parliament Hill until the Federal government concedes to repeal all COVID-19 public health restrictions and mandates. Organizers have indicated they are planning to stage disruptions that may gridlock areas around Parliament buildings and parts of Ottawa. There is no expressed departure date for participants or a clear timing when actions may end.

- At this juncture, there is no concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest. However, the possibility that a lone actor or group of individuals could enact a physical threat with little or no warning cannot be excluded.

- Convoy organizers have repeatedly stated the intention to conduct a lawful protest and have advised participants to sign a Code of Conduct articulating the appropriate behaviour for the convoy and protest. However, available information suggests that some elements within the convoy, or supporting the convoy, could engage in actions that pose a public safety threat. Convoy organizers will almost certainly have limited ability to influence or control the behaviour of some convoy participants and protest attendees.

Current Information:

- **The convoys are not travelling as cohesive units. Obtaining reliable counts for vehicles is challenging due to factors including multiple convoys; road conditions and closures delaying or diverting portions of different convoys; convoys splitting up; staggered departure times; and vehicles joining and leaving the convoys at different points along respective routes. Updates of note regarding the disparate convoys are below:**

- **Estimates provided by OPP as of 2022-01-28: 1352 Total Vehicles**
  - **West Convoy (Sault Ste. Marie-Arnprior): 361 Total (451 Commercial Motor Vehicles CMV, 20 Personal Motor Vehicles)**
  - **South Convoy (Owen Sound): 100 Total**
  - **Huntsville: 150 Total**
  - **Kingston: 554 Total (127 CMV, 427 PMV)**
  - **Quebec: 110 Total**
  - **Cochrane 67 Total**
  - **Little Current, Hamilton, Innisfil, Owen Sound-Ottawa: Unknown**

- **Large crowds gathered at a truck stop in Grenville County as federal MP Erin O'Toole engaged with convoy participants stopped there. No issues were reported.**

- **A tractor trailer hauling fuel rolled over on Hwy 416 N/B. This accident was not related to the convoy. Delays created by the accident and clean-up may divert or delay portions of the convoy in the area.**

- **Convoy organizers were advised by police that heavy equipment, including excavation equipment and all-terrain vehicles, being hauled by some participants in the convoy will not be permitted within Ottawa. Organizers relaying this information indicate they may require police assistance as the message is not well received within the convoy. OPP is discussing with Ottawa Police Service what, if any, equipment will be permitted in Ottawa.**

- **CBSA continues to advise that it is unlikely any trucks from the US will cross the border to join the convoy.**

- **A significant number of supporters continue to line overpasses throughout the country. No incidents reported.**

- **The GoFundMe account supporting the Freedom Convoy was frozen by GoFundMe until it could be determined that the funds would be distributed transparently and in accordance with their terms of service. An initial 1 million dollars has since been released following a provision plan being provided to GoFundMe by the organizers. The GoFundMe account has raised over 7 million dollars. A separate fundraiser ("ADOPT A TRUCKER") on the crowdfunding site "GiveSendGo.com" has raised $46,447.**

Actions:

- Updates continue to be provided through provincial-wide joint intelligence groups with input from PoJs across the country. The Ontario Provincial Police is coordinating information and awareness to potentially affected jurisdictions.

- OPP and POJ continue to provide public messaging advising of traffic disruptions associated with the convoy.

- MTO are working with OPP and are providing traffic control and incident management as requested.

- City of Ottawa EOC has been activated virtually and is coordinating with the National Capital Regional Command Centre (NCRCC).

- An EMO Field Officer is virtually deployed to Ottawa EOC to maintain situational awareness.

- A travel advisory was issued on 2022-01-27 to the public to avoid the Ottawa downtown core this Saturday and Sunday due to anticipated transit and traffic disruptions.

Media:

- National media continues to report on elements of the trucking convoy promoting beliefs and conspiracy theories associated with broader anti-authority and white supremacist ideology. Reporting on the online activity and real-time communications of convoy participants on the walkie-talkie app “Zello” indicate some supporters are advocating for violent confrontations and attempts to breach government buildings at Parliament Hill. Television interviews have also shown participants and supporters expressing support for violence and unlawful acts upon arrival in Ottawa. Organizers have reportedly continued to urge for a peaceful demonstration.

- False claims regarding the government’s planned response to the protest continue to circulate online. False claims could exacerbate tensions and encourage convoy participants or supporters to engage in acts of extremism or violence against government assets, public officials, and law enforcement. It is also possible that these claims on social media could motivate protests in support of the convoys at the local level that could occur spontaneously or with little warning.